

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T GENEVA 4526

EXDIS

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN FROM SHERER

MOSCOW FOR AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: CSCE: PACKAGE DEAL FOR RESOLUTION OF

BASKET III PREAMBLE PROBLEM

REF: GENEVA 4496

1. BOTH NATO CAUCUS AND INFORMAL MEETING OF CSCE DELEGATION HEADS MENTIONED REFTEL HAVE BEEN POSTPONED. INFORMAL MEETING OF DELEGATION HEADS WAS CALLED OFF WHEN SOVIETS INDICATED TO NEUTRALS THAT THEY WOULD NOT ATTEND.

2. SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN NEUTRALS FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE TEXT FOR PARA 1B OF NEUTRAL PACKAGE DEAL (GENEVA 4435):

BEGIN TEXT. THE PARTICIPATING STATES IN EXERCISING THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN LAWS AND REGULATIONS, WILL PAY DUE REGARD TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS ENACTED INTO LAW, AND THIS APPLIES ALSO TO THE COMMITMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT/DOCUMENTS OF CSCE. END TEXT.

SOVIETS HAVE ASKED NEUTRALS TO REVISE THEIR TEXT IN THIS

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SENSE BEFORE INTRODUCING PACKAGE DEAL AT INFORMAL MEETING

OF DELEGATION HEADS.THE ONLY FLEXIBILITY THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THUS FAR IS THAT THEY MIGHT ACCEPT "RESPECT" IN PLACE OF "PAY DUE REGARD TO."

3. NEUTRALS HAVE REPLIED TO SOVIETS WITH SAME ARGUMENTS USED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL. THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY CANNOT USE SOVIET TEXT IN THEIR PAPER, BUT THAT ONCE THEIR PAPER IS INTRODUCED, OPEN NEGOTIATIONS ON IT CAN BEGIN. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY HAVE WARNED SOVIETS THAT IF THEY TRY TO IMPROVE ON PRESENT PACKAGE, WESTERN SIDE WILL OBVIOUSLY TRY TO DO THE SAME, AND THE WHOLE PACKAGE MAY FALL APART.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EC-NINE WERE PREPARED SIMPLY TO ACCEPT NEUTRAL PACKAGE DEAL TODAY, IF INFORMAL MEETING OF DELEGATION HEADS HAD BEEN HELD. IF SOVIETS TRY TO CHANGE THE PACKAGE, THE NINE WILL ALSO PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS. NEUTRALS ARE NOW TRYING TO ARRANGE ANOTHER INFORMAL MEETING OF DELEGATION HEADS, POSSIBLY ON JULY 18, FOR PRESENTATION OF THE PACKAGE.

5. THE SOVIETS ARE NOW CLEARLY THE ONLY ONES BLOCKING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PACKAGE DEAL WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR OWN NEEDS FOR BASKET III PREAMBLE. THEIR PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD RENDER MEANINGLESS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE BALANCE OF THIS PACKAGE. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT SHOULD BE USED TO URGE THEM TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY, AND TO ACCEPT THE NEUTRAL PACKAGE AS IT STANDS. IF IT IS ANY HELP TO THEM, EVEN AS A FACE-SAVING DEVICE, NEUTRAL AND WESTERN GROUPS MIGHT ACCEPT CHANGING PARA 1B OF NEUTRAL PACKAGE TO READ "WILL RESPECT THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS," VICE "WILL COMPLY, IN GOOD FAITH, WITH THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS." HOWEVER, FURTHER CHANGES WOULD DESTROY THE BALANCE OF THIS PACKAGE, AND WOULD MAKE EARLY ACCEPTANCE UNLIKELY.DALE

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NNN

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